

## Message Text

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60

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SS-15 NSC-10 CIAE-00 PM-09 INR-10 L-03

NEA-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 GAC-01 USIA-12

TRSE-00 MBFR-03 SAJ-01 NIC-01 DODE-00 ACDA-19 IO-12

RSR-01 /138 W

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R 041436 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8324

INFO AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENNA 2724

REF: A) BUDAPEST 0773; B) FBIS LONDON R 302015 Z MAR 73 ZNZ1;  
C) VIENNA 2586

1. SUMMARY: VISIT OF AUSTRIAN CHANCELLOR BRUNO KREISKY AND PARTY TO BUDAPEST MAR 28-30 WAS CONCEIVED AS FENCE- MENDING OPERATION TO MAINTAIN EXCELLENT RELATIONS CURRENTLY EXISTING BETWEEN AUSTRIA AND ITS COMMUNIST NEIGHBOR TO THE EAST. INCLUSION IN DELEGATION OF PARLIAMENTARY CHAIRMEN OF THE THREE MAJOR AUSTRIAN POLITICAL PARTIES AND OF THREE PROVINCIAL GOVERNORS MARKED NEW DEPARTURE IN AUSTRIAN DIPLOMACY. KREISKY CHOSE OCCASION OF VISIT TO DUST OFF AN OLD PROPOSAL OF HIS FOR THINNING OUT OF TROOPS IN CENTRAL EUROPE. END SUMMARY

2. ACCORDING TO AUSTRIAN FONOFF SOURCES, VISIT OF CHANCELLOR KREISKY AND PARTY TO BUDAPEST HAD NO PURPOSE OTHER THAN MAINTENANCE OF EXCELLENT RELATIONS APPARENTLY EXISTING BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES. EVER SINCE HUNGARIAN PREMIER FOCK VISITED AUSTRIA YEAR AGO, HUNGARIANS HAVE BEEN PRESSING FOR RETURN VISIT AND KREISKY FELT OBLIGED TO COME AT EARLIEST OPPORTUNITY. WHILE TWO SIDES HELD WIDE- RANGING DISCUSSIONS OF VARIOUS INTERNATIONAL ISSUES AND ACTUAL AGREEMENTS WERE MADE ON A CONFIDENTIAL

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FEW MINOR BILATERAL PROBLEMS, NO PARTICULAR RESULTS WERE EXPECTED OR ACHIEVED. SECGEN AT FONMIN WODAK TOLD AMB THAT VISIT

WAS TANGIBLE PROOF THAT NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES WITH VASTLY DIFFERENT POLITICAL SYSTEMS COULD REACH MODUS VIVENDI. KREISKY SUMMED UP BY SAYING SIMPLY " GOOD NEIGHBORS HAVE MET".

3. PERHAPS MOST INTERESTING ASPECT OF VISIT FROM AUSTRIAN POINT OF VIEW WAS NEW " COALITION" COMPOSITION OF DELEGATION WHICH ACCOMPANIED CHANCELLOR. ALL THREE PARLIAMENTARY CHAIRMEN OF MAJOR AUSTRIAN POLITICAL PARTIES -- GRATZ ( SOCIALIST PARTY), KOREN ( PEOPLE' S PARTY), AND PETER ( FREEDOM PARTY) -- WERE INCLUDED, AS WELL AS GOVERNORS OF AUSTRIA' S THREE EASTERN PROVINCES -- BURGENLAND, STYRIA AND LOWER AUSTRIA. KREISKY FELT THAT REPRESENTATION FROM OTHER POLITICAL PARTIES AND FROM FEDERAL PROVINCES WOULD ENHANCE APPEARANCE OF UNITY IN AUSTRIA' S FOREIGN POLICY. ( THERE IS NOW SPECULATION AS TO WHETHER KREISKY WILL CHOOSE TO FOLLOW THIS PRACTICE WHEN NEXT AUSTRIAN OFFICIAL VISIT IS MADE TO COUNTRY SUCH AS SOVIET UNION OR U. S.).

4. IN SPEECH BEFORE HUNGARIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCE, KREISKY REITERATED AN OLD PROPOSAL OF HIS FOR THINNING OUT OF TROOPS IN CENTRAL EUROPE. HE FIRST MADE SUCH PROPOSAL IN SPEECH AT WARSAY IN 1960 DURING HIS FIRST VISIT THERE AS AUSTRIAN FOREIGN MINISTER. AT THAT TIME, OF COURSE, PROPOSAL AMOUNTED TO VIRTUAL ENDORSEMENT OF RAPACKI PLAN AND WAS UNDERSTANDABLY POPULAR WITH POLES. ( KREISKY PROPOSAL WAS DUBBED LOCALLY " THE KREISPACKI PLAN".) JUST WHY HE CHOSE TO DUST OFF THIS PLAN WHILE ON VISIT TO HUNGARY AT THE PRECISE MOMENT WHEN HUNGARIAN PARTICIPATION IS BONE OF CONTENTION IN MBFR TALKS, REMAINS TO BE EXPLAINED.

5. ACCORDING TO SECGEN WODAK, VISIT CAN BE REGARDED AS HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL. HUMES

CONFIDENTIAL

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